

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for configuring a resource to interact with a network, comprising:

obtaining a set of configuration information;

5 upon obtaining said configuration information, automatically performing the following operations:

configuring a resource in accordance with at least a portion of said

configuration information;

registering the resource with a domain on a network; and

10 establishing a user account on the domain to enable a user to log on to the domain.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation of configuring the resource is performed without user intervention.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation of registering the resource is performed without user intervention.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation of establishing the user

20 account is performed without user intervention.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said configuration information is imbedded within a computer program, and wherein obtaining said configuration information comprises:

extracting said portion of said configuration information from said computer

5 program.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said portion of said configuration information is encrypted, and wherein extracting said portion of said configuration information comprises:

10 decrypting said portion of said configuration information.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said configuration information is information specific to the resource, and wherein obtaining said configuration information comprises:

15 retrieving said portion of said configuration information from a registry associated with the resource.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said configuration information is user-specifiable.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein said configuration information comprises network settings for enabling the resource to communicate with the network, and wherein configuring the resource comprises:

updating the resource with said network settings.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said configuration information comprises resource-specific information, and wherein configuring the resource comprises:

5 updating the resource with said resource-specific information.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said configuration information comprises account information pertaining to an administrator account on the domain, and wherein the following operation is automatically performed before registering the resource and
10 establishing the user account:

logging on to the domain using said account information.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the following operation is also automatically performed:

15 establishing a local user account on the resource to enable the user to log in to and access the resource.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the following operation is also automatically performed:

20 establishing a permission within the resource to enable the user to use the resource to log on to the user account on the domain.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the resource comprises an established permission, which enables another user to use the resource, and wherein the following operation is also automatically performed:

5 establishing a new permission within the resource to enable the other user to use the resource to log on to the domain.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein each account has a profile associated therewith which defines an operating environment, wherein the resource comprises an existing account, and wherein the following operation is also automatically performed:

10 copying a profile associated with the existing account into a profile associated with the user account.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein each account has a profile associated therewith which defines an operating environment, and wherein the following operation is also automatically performed:

15 installing on the resource a computer program, which may be executed by the resource to copy a profile associated with one account into a profile associated with another account.

20 17. A computer readable medium comprising program instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to configure a resource to interact with a network, said program instructions comprising:

instructions for causing one or more processors to obtain a set of configuration information;

instructions for causing one or more processors to automatically configure a resource in accordance with at least a portion of said configuration information;

5 instructions for causing one or more processors to automatically register the resource with a domain on a network; and

instructions for causing one or more processors to automatically establish a user account on the domain to enable a user to log on to the domain.

10 18. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein said program instructions are embodied in a computer program, and wherein at least a portion of said configuration information is imbedded within said computer program.

15 19. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to obtain said configuration information comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to extract said portion of said configuration information from said computer program.

20 20. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said portion of said configuration information is encrypted, and wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to extract said portion of said configuration information comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to decrypt said portion of said configuration information.

21. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein said program instructions further comprise:

instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a set of input; and

5 instructions for causing one or more processors to imbed said set of input within said computer program as said portion of said configuration information.

22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to imbed said set of input within said computer program
10 comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to encrypt said set of input.

23. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein at least a portion of said configuration information is information specific to the resource, and wherein said
15 instructions for causing one or more processors to obtain said configuration information comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to retrieve said portion of said configuration information from a registry associated with the resource.

20 24. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein at least a portion of said configuration information is user-specifiable.

25. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein said configuration information comprises network settings for enabling the resource to communicate with the network, and wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to automatically configure the resource comprises:

5 instructions for causing one or more processors to update the resource with said network settings.

26. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein said configuration information comprises resource-specific information, and wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to configure the resource comprises:

10 instructions for causing one or more processors to update the resource with said resource-specific information.

27. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein said configuration information comprises account information pertaining to an administrator account on the domain, and wherein said program instructions further comprise:

15 instructions for causing one or more processors to log on to the domain using said account information.

28. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein said program instructions further comprise:

20 instructions for causing one or more processors to establish a local user account on the resource to enable the user to log in to and access the resource.

29. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein said program instructions further comprise:

instructions for causing one or more processors to establish a permission within
5 the resource to enable the user to use the resource to log on to the user account on the domain.

30. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein the resource comprises an established permission, which enables another user to use the resource, and
10 wherein said program instructions further comprise:

instructions for causing one or more processors to establish a new permission within the resource to enable the other user to use the resource to log on to the domain.

31. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein each account has a
15 profile associated therewith which defines an operating environment, wherein the resource comprises an existing account, and wherein said program instructions further comprise:

instructions for causing one or more processors to copy a profile associated with the existing account into a profile associated with the user account.

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32. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein each account has a profile associated therewith which defines an operating environment, and wherein said program instructions further comprise:

instructions for causing one or more processors to copy a profile associated with one account into a profile associated with another account.

33. The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein said program
5 instructions are embodied in a computer program having a first name, and wherein said program instructions further comprise:

instructions for causing one or more processors to install said computer program onto the resource.

10 34. The computer readable medium of claim 33, wherein said instructions for causing one or more processors to install said computer program onto the resource comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to rename said computer program to a second name before installing it onto the resource.

15 35. The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein said program instructions further comprise:

instructions for causing one or more processors to determine a current name associated with said computer program; and

20 instructions for causing, in response to a determination that the current name of said computer program is said second name, one or more processors to forego execution of all instructions except for said instructions for causing one or more processors to copy a profile associated with one account into a profile associated with another account.